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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 1 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement regarding the completion of the reduction of excessive Russian conventional weapons and military equipment deployed in the territory of Georgia, in accordance with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE treaty) and its integral part — Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and Georgia (Joint Statement) made at the Istanbul Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 17 November 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 73.

(*Signed*) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

Upon instructions received from my Government, I am authorized to inform you that, in accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and its integral part — Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and Georgia (Joint Statement) made at the Istanbul Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 17 November 1999 — the Russian Federation, with the assistance of Georgia and other OSCE States, has completed its reduction of excessive Russian conventional weapons and military hardware located in the territory of Georgia by the set deadline of 31 December 2000 (see appendix). This reduction constitutes the first phase of the withdrawal of the Russian military presence from the territory of Georgia.

In spite of a number of difficulties that presented themselves during the negotiation process, the parties demonstrated the political will and commitment necessary to carry out the reduction of excessive Russian military equipment in a transparent and efficient manner. In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all countries involved in this process, whose support was instrumental to the success of the reduction.

Alongside of the above-mentioned we would like to stress that the Joint Statement contains another stage, even more crucial, which calls for the closure of the remaining Russian military bases in Georgia (located in Vaziani and Gudauta) by 1 July 2001. We hope that the second element will also be fully implemented in the spirit of transparency and cooperation.

Another important issue that is to be agreed according to the Joint Statement is the duration of the temporary deployment of two remaining Russian military bases in Georgia (located in Batumi and Akhalkhalaki). In that regard, I wish to focus your attention on two principal agreements reached during the negotiations:

1. The eventual goal of the Russian military forces reduction process is the complete liberation of the territory of Georgia from foreign military presence;

2. The duration of the functioning of Russian military bases in Georgia will be determined by a period necessary for the elimination of such functioning.

We would like to express our concern regarding the position of the Russian side, which stated that all provisions of the Joint Statement are interrelated and subject to implementation in all aspects.

In this regard, the Government of Georgia finds absolutely unacceptable any attempts to link improperly other obligations determined by the Joint Statement, leading therefore to their overall blockage.

We believe that the full, timely and unconditional completion of the withdrawal as set forth in the Russian-Georgian Joint Statement will contribute to

the normalization of relations between our two countries which had deteriorated in other spheres and strengthen the stability and security of the whole region.

The negotiations between Georgia and the Russian Federation are still in progress. We will keep the international community informed about the results of these negotiations.

Appendix

Information on the results of the reduction process of Russian treaty-limited equipment (TLE) in the territory of Georgia

MILITARY BASE	TLE BEFORE THE WITHDRAWAL		TOTAL OF TLE WITHDRAWN	UTILIZED	REMAINING ON THE BASE	REMARKS
VAZIANI	TANKS	31	31		0	4 ACVs were transferred from Vaziani base to Batumi base.
	ACVs	54	28*		0	
	ARTILLERY	16	16		0	
TBILISI TANK REPAIR FACILITY	TANKS	28	4	24	0	7 ACVs were transferred from Tbilisi Tank Repair Facility to Batumi base.
	ACVs	102	28*	67	0	
	ARTILLERY	2		2	0	
GUDAUTA	TANKS	0			0	34 ACVs of Gudauta base were transferred to the peacekeeping forces located in Gali district and they will be assigned to Batumi base till the end of year 2000.
	ACVs	102	78*		0	
	ARTILLERY	11	11		0	
BATUMI	TANKS	41			41	11 ACVs were added to Batumi base from Tbilisi Tank Repair Facility and Vaziani base; 134 ACVs of peacekeeping forces located in Gali district will be assigned to Batumi base till the end of year 2000.
	ACVs	101	61		51*	
	ARTILLERY	76			76	
AKHALKALAKI	TANKS	41			41	3 Artillery pieces were added to Akhalkalaki base from Tskhinvali district; 38 ACVs of peacekeeping forces located in Tskhinvali district will be assigned to Akhalkalaki base till the end of year 2000.
	ACVs	127	76	23	38	
	ARTILLERY	61			64*	
PEACEKEEPING FORCES	TANKS	0			0	34 ACVs of Gudauta base were added to the armaments of peacekeeping forces; 3 Artillery pieces were transferred to Akhalkalaki base; All armaments of peacekeeping forces will be assigned to Batumi base (134 ACVs located in Gali district) and to Akhalkalaki base (38 ACVs located in Tskhinvali district) till the end of year 2000.
	ACVs	139			87	
	ARTILLERY	3			0*	
TOTAL:	954		375 491	116	463	During the year 2000 Russian TLE was reduced by 491 pieces; 463 pieces of TLE still remain on the territory of Georgia; among them: in Akhalkalaki – 143, in Batumi – 148, in Gali district – 134, in Tskhinvali district – 38 pieces. The whole amount of the above mentioned armaments will be assigned accordingly to two military bases: 271 pieces to Batumi base and 192 pieces to Akhalkalaki base.